INTRODUCTION

When the Senate of the Tenth Texas Legislature met in November, 1863, war and its accompanying problems were very real to the chosen delegates of the people of Texas. Southern forces had been bloodily repulsed at Gettysburg, shattered at Vicksburg and Chattanooga. Even in the face of these losses, occurring only a relatively short time prior to the session, the Senators were optimistic—reality demanded it; but the thoughts at that time were mostly in a serious vein as the contending armies of the Confederacy and the United States had clashed on numerous occasions. Some of these encounters had been on Texas soil and had brought brightly into focus the realities of death and destruction. Governor Francis R. Lubbock's statement that Texas had furnished ninety thousand men for the Confederate army was no idle jest, for it was a larger figure than had ever voted in a general election in Texas, and many of them had already met death or had been wounded.

Another cogent pressure came from the west. As the manpower was drained for battles in the east, the Texas frontier also became a hot-bed of activity. Indian raids on frontier towns increased, resulting in deep concern over where to get the able-bodid men and equipment for defense.

Economic and social problems also had to be faced. Industrially, Texas was an infant, and the supplying of food, clothing and ammunition to the soldiers was an ever-present nemesis. Foundries had been established, the production of arms had been encouraged, the state penitentiary had been converted into a clothing mill—all this by 1863—but still the demand exceeded production. Medical supplies were sorely needed both at the battle-front and at home.

Woven into the web was a constantly depreciating currency; prices of consumer goods were rising and money was worth less and less. Families of soldiers were left destitute and without means of support. What to do about this was partly a question for the Legislature to answer. More and more Southerners from Arkansas and Louisiana were driven into Texas as their homesites were turned into

battlegrounds, and their position in the new communities had to be settled.

Retiring Governor Lubbock outlined these problems in some detail as he greeted the Senate at the Capitol on November 4, 1863, but he was optimistic, believing that "ere long, victory will perch upon our banners and an honorable and lasting peace be secured." Then he handed the reigns of government to Pendleton Murrah, the Governor-elect. Murrah, in his inaugural address, laid before the Legislature a plan which heavily stressed industrialization. He looked to the day when "every man, woman and child in Texas, if need be, be clad in homespun or in domestic manufactures, and . . . every field shall be ploughed with iron from our native ores." So Lubbock outlined the problems of the day, Murrah proposed the solution, and it was left to the Legislature—and to the Senate as a branch of it—to carry out the program.

The guiding light in this effort had to be the Lieutenant-Governor, Fletcher S. Stockdale. He was a man of few words—his inaugural address contained only eighty-six words—but he made the Senate run smoothly. A native Kentuckian, he had moved to Texas in 1846, had served as a state Senator from 1857-1861, and had been a voting member of the Texas Secession Convention. To his new office he brought experience and maturity, both of which qualities are reflected in the Senate's proceedings.

Stockdale couldn't do the job alone; he had to have help. This came in the form of thirty-three Senators, most of whom had previous legislative experience. And there were some giants in the group. The names of James W. Throckmorton and D. C. .Dickson will ever be enshrined in the halls of Texas history. Although perhaps less well known, Pryor Lea, Chauncy B. Shepard, Rice Maxey and N. B. Charlton, were all substantial citizens of Texas and made significant contributions. Frontiersmen in the group included William Quayle, George E. Burney and Daniel Montague. Montague County had already been created in 1857 and named for Daniel Montague.

Even though legislative processes work slowly, this Senate session grappled with its problems and brought

many, but not all, of them to solution. Numerous bills were passed providing for the growth of industry and the regulation of the judiciary processes. Towns were incorporated, taxes and appropriations were approved, and several private relief bills were passed. Looking backward, the record here printed reflects a rather harmonious and successful session.

Usually the convening of each session of the Legislature sees its members assuming their responsibilities with high hopes. The desire to achieve for the best interests of the State, genralely, is dominant. Disillusionmnt oftentimes comes in retrospect regarding accomplishments as conflicting interests and contending groups resort to pressure tactics while seeking unfair or artificial advantages over others. The record comes from the fact of one's having served honorably and done his best at all times.

These qualities stimulate and sustain character—which is the all-important factor for public service. The Senators of the "Tenth" portrayed such and set themselves apart as true statesmen by their courage and wisdom.

Thus it is fitting that the record of their proceedings should be compiled and preserved for latter-day admonition.

While fulsome flattery would be distasteful to James M. Day, Director of State Archives, nevertheless, it is to his great individual effort, devotion to duty and dedication to the preservation of these important proceedings in the anthology of historic documents of Texas that we are indebted for this work. Mr. Day's painstaking efforts and research have supplied an accurate record of the actions of the Senate of the Ninth Legislature, heretofore published, and of the Tenth Texas Legislature during a highly critical period. It is a most noteworthy contribution—a real service to historian and researcher—and Mr. Day is deserving of our gratitude for their production.

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